

## STATEMENT

### AMERICAN PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (APCIA)

#### **S.B. No. 660 – AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS SUFFERED BY ALL WORKERS**

#### LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

**February 18, 2021**

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)<sup>1</sup> appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 660, An Act Expanding Workers’ Compensation Benefits for Mental or Emotional Impairments Suffered by all Workers. With members comprising nearly 60 percent of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, APCIA represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association.

While APCIA recognizes both the seriousness and the prevalence of mental and emotional impairments as well as the importance of receiving treatment for such impairments, the workers compensation system was never intended to, nor can it, provide treatment and compensation for all mental illnesses impacting employees. An expansion of coverage of that nature could overwhelm the system and have a serious impact on the affordability of workers compensation insurance.

The workers compensation system provides treatment and compensation for work-based injuries. Many states entirely bar claims for so-called “mental-mental” claims (mental stress resulting in mental injuries). For states that permit such claims, higher compensability standards are generally imposed than for claims involving physical injury, which is appropriate in view of the greater challenge these claims present in connecting the injury to the workplace.

If mental and emotional impairments were made compensable generally under the workers compensation system, then every employee who alleged a mental or emotional condition could be eligible for indemnity and medical benefits throughout their life. The nature of these conditions and the difficulty associated with objectively proving the work-related nature of the impairment, would make these claims very difficult and burdensome to the system. Further, if the workers compensation system were inundated with these claims, workers compensation costs could increase substantially and could add to the burdens currently being faced by many of Connecticut’s businesses.

---

<sup>1</sup> Effective January 1, 2019, the American Insurance Association (AIA) and the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCIAA) merged to form the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA). Representing nearly 60 percent of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers. APCIA represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions, which protect families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe.

For the foregoing reasons, APCIA urges your Committee NOT to advance this bill.